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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 16, 1903.

THE CITY SCHOOL SITUATION

The school question in this city is causing some commotion, much of it in consequence of misunderstanding and some unjust criticism. That the Board of Education is in face of a financial difficulty is beyond dispute. There is not enough money in sight to meet expenses for the last month of the school year. And there is a debt of \$30,000, which ought to be liquidated. Foreseeing the trouble, the board proposed a change in the State law raising the tax limit from five and a half mills to seven mills. This raised a storm of opposition from the taxpayers, and the Deseret News voiced the public sentiment. A measure finally passed the Legislature which, while a modification of the first plan, was objectionable for several reasons, and at the request of many prominent and influential citizens the Governor, very properly, we believe, vetoed the bill.

The next step of the closing of the schools a month earlier than usual, and for that the board is receiving some very pronounced censure. The general opinion is that if the board had the disposition to do so, it could devise ways and means by which the present emergency might be tide over. Several plans have been suggested, but the idea seems to prevail that the board, being chagrined at the defeat of its taxing scheme, desired to retaliate by closing the schools, to teach the obstinate taxpayers a lasting lesson.

Now, all that may be largely conjecture and inference, and the board may be acting upon its best judgment, and in view of a situation not commonly understood. The closing proposition is perhaps the safest that can be put into practice. The tuition scheme we believe to be inadvisable and of doubtful legality. The subscription expedient is not likely to be successful, although due credit ought to be given to Mr. Geoghegan for his liberal offer to start it.

In any event, improper motives ought not to be attributed to a body of gentlemen, who are endeavoring to promote the cause of education in this city, even if we do not agree with all their plans. Certainly they do not deserve any imputation of wilful waste, great extravagance, or dishonest or dishonorable conduct in any sense of the term. Insinuations of that sort are unworthy of any fair-minded citizen, and are extremely unjust to the Board of Education.

Nor is it right to saddle upon the present board the liabilities incurred by a former administration, or blame the incumbents for unexpected outlays consequent upon fire or other accidents. Close investigation will show that some of the charges made against them are based upon conditions over which they had no control, and which they had to meet without being responsible for their creation. The people of this city ought to look at these facts fairly, before they pass condemnation or hurl epithets of anger or discontent.

If it were not for the disarrangement of the graduating courses, and the consequent postponement of promotions which are a beneficial feature of our school system, we would not regard as very serious the clipping off of a month from the current school term. A large number of schools in country districts will close about that time, and no trouble will arise or murmur be heard about it. Just for once it will bring no great calamity to the city nor to the cause of education therein. That it would be better to continue them to the end of the regular school year we do not dispute. But the board is following the advice, "Cut your garment according to your cloth." In the way that seems easiest and best, and if there is no other practical way out of the difficulty, we will have to submit and it will be well to do so without needless grumbling.

One thing will have to be kept in mind; that is, the people have reached the full limit of their endurance of the tax burden. It has been growing for many years and they do not mean to stand additional weights. Hereafter, we will have to be the policy of the future, and those who will not adopt it will meet with little favor from the voting citizens of this city, county and State. "Cut your garment according to your cloth," still have to be practiced in the spirit of the instruction, and politicians had better open their eyes to its clear significance.

A WORD OF SYMPATHY.

The Deseret News extends the most heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Geoghegan in the loss they have sustained, under terrible and agonizing circumstances. The partial destruction of their elegant home by fire is a great affliction, but the death from suffocation of their dear little three-year-old son, is one of those awful bereavements that subside the stoutest hearts and call for the condolence of every humane being. The cup of their sorrow is full to overflowing, and their only consolation must come from a divine source, and the knowledge that a host of friends of

all views and persuasions sympathize with them in their misfortune, and are ready to aid them in any way that brings possible relief. Particulars of the disaster are given elsewhere in this paper, and these we are sure will not only shock the entire community but cause tears of sorrow to dim the eyes of our readers. May comfort come to the bereaved, and may they be strengthened to bear their afflictions with patience and fortitude and reliance upon that Divine Providence, whose loving kindness can bring forth out of our severest trials untold blessings in our nature, that tend to glorify our being, and prepare us for blessings that shall endure forever!

SELF CONVICTED!

If there was anything lacking to prove the folly as well as falsehood of the Salt Lake Tribune in repeating its nonsense about the Crosby incident, it was furnished this morning by itself, in a reported interview with the "young attorney" printed on its first page. Comparison of the faring headlines given to it with the matter that follows them, will show beyond doubt that the Tribune was NOT right in quoting Crosby, that he "contradicted" instead of confirming its "stories as printed," and that, as is often the case in that paper, the headings and the body of the article are directly at variance.

And that is not all. The reporter who was detailed to get the interview, furnished Crosby with a copy of that which was sent to the Tribune, and Crosby writes us the following letter with the copy furnished him enclosed, in which he directly repudiates nearly all of that paper's fabrications. He says:

Richfield, Utah, April 15, 1903.
Editor Deseret News:
I had said that I would take no hand in the controversy between the Tribune and the News, but the Tribune asked for an interview, and I gave it. I enclosed a copy. The copy he gave me I enclose. I did not say that I was "called," but I did say that I was going there at the advice of certain of the "church people" and they can call it what they please. I underline the portions in the enclosed that were not in the original and make other changes that are needed. Now, I have only this to say: I have been an employee of the Tribune for a number of years and I went to the office by invitation and after talking some about the matter I asked what was wanted of me and gave me a little "send off" and I thought nothing more of the matter. Imagine my indignation on finding out the affair. The Tribune also left out one part that I think relevant to this subject. Its reporter asked, "Are you compelled to go?" "No, not at all. I am going of my own free will and not go as advised."

Sincerely,
GEORGE H. CROSBY, JR.
It is as we have stated from the first. The untruths about Crosby's being "called" by the Church authorities and "set apart" to go to Arizona to practice law; the "calling" of other young attorneys to remove to that territory to control its policies; and all the stuff set forth editorially as well as locally in that paper about this being part of the "policy" of the Church, were manufactured by the Tribune and plastered upon Crosby. Its editorial ravings this morning deceive nobody who knows what that paper has been in the habit of doing when caught in its lying ways.

We have to state once more on the authority of the Church leaders, that George H. Crosby Jr. has not been "called" by them to go to Arizona or elsewhere, and further that they did not even "advise" him to do so. When he incidentally mentioned the matter they simply told him that they had no advice to give but he should do as he pleased. The only feature of the entire controversy that we have cared a cent about is that which the Tribune manufactured for the purpose of maligning the "Mormon" Church, and deceiving the public as to its alleged plans and purposes. Its story was utterly false, and was not even made up from Crosby's statement about his expected removal, but was one of the characteristic fabrications of an anti-"Mormon" sheet, that seems to be unable to gain sense or better behavior from the experiences of the past.

FREEDOM IN RUSSIA.

The general comment on the famous decree of the Czar touching the freedom of Russians, is still commented on, and it appears that the more the document is scrutinized, the clearer it becomes that its real meaning is well hidden in the obscurity of the language. The freedom it does promise is that enjoyed by Russian subjects of unorthodox faith, and of foreigners having other religions. The members of the orthodox church do not share in the blessings of liberty. The old intolerant laws remain in force.

The Outlook, publishes the law paragraphs bearing on the subject. They are interesting reading in this age of enlightenment. It will be seen that it is a serious offense to leave the Russian church and become a Catholic, Protestant, Mohammedan, etc. The laws prescribe:

"All persons who leave the Orthodox church for the church of any other Christian denomination shall be turned over to the spiritual authorities for admonition and instruction, and shall be then dealt with in accordance with ecclesiastical rules. Until they shall return to orthodoxy, their minor children shall be taken in charge by the government, in order that they may not become perverted, and their lands, if occupied by orthodox Christians, shall be put under guardianship and shall not be permitted to live thereupon."

Still more serious is the offense of preaching anything, except the official brand of religion. The law says:

or any other non-Christian faith, the guilty one shall be deprived of all civil right and sent into penal servitude for a period of from eight to ten years."

With such laws in effect there can be no question of liberty. What is needed in Russia is the freedom of members of all sects to select in what manner they desire to worship. That means liberty of speech, of teaching, of discussion. Without this there can be no advance in other directions.

Still the decree marks a policy, not formerly declared in this way in Russia. It may prove the first step in the desired direction. We hope it does. Russia has millions of Catholics, Mohammedans, Protestants, and dissenters within her borders. The figures are given as follows: There are 95,500,000 Orthodox Greek Catholics, 12,150,000 Roman Catholics, 12,150,000 Mohammedans, 6,750,000 Protestants, 4,050,000 Jews, 1,350,000 United Church and Armenians, and 2,700,000 followers of other faiths. Not until they are all placed on a basis of equality, will it be possible to make peace between the various factions. Russia should learn something from the rest of Europe.

Still, the progress there must be gradual, and slow. It must be evolutionary, not revolutionary. Were the transformation accomplished with one stroke, the results would be terrible. Russia has been compared to a huge glacier, moving slowly, but surely, towards its goal. It might perhaps be possible to melt this mass of ice in a short time, but not without causing destructive floods in the wake of the waters. The time must come when Russia, like the rest of the world, will feel the conscious impulse of democracy; but that day is not yet come. The Czar's wisdom is apparent in his intention to reform that which already exists rather than to force upon the empire that for which it is as yet unprepared.

Clean yards are good but clean hearts are better.

The wise man foresees the danger and disposes of his inflated stock holdings.

The Iowa idea so far as the bursting of big guns is concerned will never be popular.

The Aspen tunnel should postpone its slides until May, when moving is in order.

Mr. Roosevelt is confronted by three distinct dilemmas: Bear, forebear and Cinnabar.

Arbor Day being a holiday, of course the school children planted no tree of knowledge.

Captain Pershing's troops have been attacked by Yellow Jack, a foe much more to be dreaded than the Moser.

A St. Louis woman has just whipped a male flirt. Perhaps in future he will depart from his evil ways and avoid flirting.

The national drink bill and the assets of the steel trust amount to about the same figure—thirteen hundred million dollars.

The baseball season has opened and soon the anxious public will be entertained with accounts of the mobbing of the umpire.

If the Board of Health would make the little boys clean up their hands and faces, parents would be thankful accordingly.

Professor Pickering of Harvard observatory thinks he has discovered unmistakable evidences of hoarfrost on the moon. Moonshine!

It is being announced right along that the President is in seclusion. And all the while everybody has been thinking he was in Yellowstone Park.

Eastern financial editors are discussing the problem whether undigested securities are indigestible. The quickest solution would be to feed them to the goat and see.

If a soldier in the German army is to be run through with a sword for not properly saluting an officer, what sort of punishment would be given him should he assault an officer?

Mr. Roosevelt has not killed a mountain lion in Yellowstone Park nor has he fired a shot while he has been there. The fact is that the President and the lions have lain down together.

The good people of Joplin, Mo., have risen in their might and lynched a negro, accused of killing a policeman. It is to their credit that they did not burn and mutilate him as they do in the more chivalric states.

How good and thoughtful of the children not to want to put the burden of their tuition upon their parents. They are willing to forego the benefit of a month's schooling to help father and mother along.

Here is one of the things General Baldwin is alleged to have said about the Philippines as soldiers and for which the war department has asked an explanation of him. "One of my reasons for liking the Filipino as a soldier is the same that gives me a preference for the negro in the same capacity—in a fight I am not worried about his safety, as it doesn't make any difference whether he gets killed or not." It is hoped for the sake of the American army, for the sake of humanity that General Baldwin uttered no such sentiment. A Filipino may have a brown skin and ways that are not all American, but he is a man with a God-planted soul in him.

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